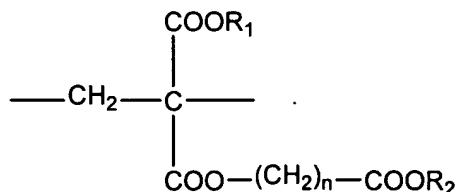


Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
a microparticle that includes having an mean particle size of between about 0.5 μ m and about 100 μ m, said microparticle comprising:
a polymeric support material in which a substance can be dispersed, wherein the support material comprises at least about 50% w/w of at least one homopolymer with a repeat unit according to Formula (I):



wherein

R₁ represents a C₁-C₆ alkyl group or a group (CH₂)_m-COOR₃ wherein m is an integer from 1 to 5 and R₃ is a C₁-C₆ alkyl group, R₁ and R₃ being the same or different;

R₂ represents a C₁-C₆ alkyl group the same or different from R₁ and R₃;

n is an integer from 1 to 5; and

at least one therapeutic agent that is encapsulated or dispersed in the polymeric support material of the microparticle.

2. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein:
R₁ and R₂ are independently chosen C₁-C₆ alkyl groups; and
n is 1.

3. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein:

the stated homopolymer comprising repeat units according to Formula (I) wherein R₁ and R₂ are ethyl groups; and

n= 1.

4. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the composition being obtained by a single emulsification process.

5. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the support material comprises:

from about 90 to about 99.5% by weight of a homopolymer as defined in ~~claims 1, 2, or 3~~claim 1; and

from about 0.5 to about 10% by weight of a polymer additive.

6. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 wherein the polymer additive comprises at least one of polyethyleneoxide, polyvinylalcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, poly(N-2-hydroxypropyl methacrylamide), polyhydroxyethylmethacrylate, hydrophilic poly(aminoacid) such as polylysine or polysaccharide.

7. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claims 5 and 6~~claim 5 wherein the polymer additive is a polyvinylalcohol.

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~claim 1 wherein the dispersed substance is hydrophobic.

9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claim 1 claims 1 through 8~~any one of claim 1 wherein the dispersed substance is a therapeutic agent that requires a solvation vehicle for administration.

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~claim 1 wherein the dispersed substance is hydrophylic.

11. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~claim 1, wherein the dispersed substance is a therapeutic agent.

12. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~claim 1, wherein the dispersed substance is a peptide or polypeptide.

13. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claims 1 through 12~~claim 1 -wherein the dispersed substance is a protein.

14. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of ~~claims 1 through 13~~claim 1 wherein the dispersed substance is a bioactive molecule such as a drug, a therapeutic agent, an anticancer agent, a gene therapy agent, a plasmid DNA, a protein, an enzyme, a peptide, a radionuclide, a protein inhibitor, an analgesic, an anti-inflammatory agent, an antibiotic, an antiviral agent, an antineoplastic agent, a pyrimidine, purine or folic acid analog, an cytotoxic agent, an immunomodulator, a hormone, an antibody or a painkiller.

15. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 14 wherein the pyrimidine analog is fluorouracil (5-FU).

16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 15~~claim 1 wherein the dispersed substance is a bioactive molecule such as an anticancer agent or a gene therapy agent.

17. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 16~~claims 1 wherein the dispersed substance is a therapeutic agent for treating or reducing the severity of a urological disease or disorder.

18. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 17~~claim 1 wherein the dispersed substance is a therapeutic agent for bladder cancer.

19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of ~~claims 1 through 18~~claim 1, wherein the dispersed substance is a taxane.

20. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19, wherein the taxane is paclitaxel, docetaxel (Taxotere®) or taxol®.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 20~~claim 8 wherein the dispersed therapeutic is hydrophobic comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a first solution in a volatile organic solvent wherein the solution comprises a polymeric support material and a therapeutic agent;
- b) preparing a second solution immiscible with the first solution, the second solution comprising a stabilizing agent;
- c) preparing an emulsion by combining the first and second solutions sufficient to produce a single phase being composed of a polymer solution; and
- d) evaporating the volatile organic solvent while stirring the emulsion to make the pharmaceutical composition.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 20~~claim 10 wherein the dispersed therapeutic is hydrophilic comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a first solution in a volatile organic solvent wherein the solution comprises a polymeric support material;

- b) preparing a second aqueous solution immiscible with the first solution, the second solution comprising a stabilizing agent and the therapeutic agent;
- c) preparing an emulsion by combining the first and second sufficient to produce a single phase being composed of a polymer solution; and
- d) evaporating the volatile organic solvent while stirring the emulsion to make the pharmaceutical composition.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 21 or claim 22~~, wherein the method comprises the addition steps:

- e) isolating the pharmaceutical composition by centrifugation; and
- f) washing the pharmaceutical composition with one or more wash cycles;

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 21 through 23~~claim 22 wherein the method comprises the addition step of:

- (h) lyophilizing the microparticles.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 21 through 24~~claim 22, wherein the polymer support material is a poly(methylidene malonate 2.1.2).

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 21 through 25~~claim 22, wherein the stabilizing agent is chosen from polyethylenoxides, polysorbates, polyvinylalcohols, and polymer additives described in claims 5 and 6.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 21 through 26~~claim 26 wherein the stabilizing agent is a polyvinylalcohol.

28-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a subject suffering from or susceptible to a urological disease or disorder, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 through 20~~.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a subject suffering from or susceptible to cancer, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of any one of claim 1~~claims 1 through 20~~.

37. (Original) A method for treating a urological disorder comprising: administering intravesically a microparticle with one or more encapsulated therapeutic agents to the lumen of the bladder, contacting the particles to the surface of the mucosa, releasing the encapsulated therapeutic agent in a controlled manner to treat the urological disorder.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37 wherein the microparticle comprises a poly(methylidene malonate 2.1.2) polymer support material.

39. (Original) A method according to claim 37 wherein the urological disorder is a cancer and the microparticle encapsulated therapeutic agent is an anticancer agent.

40. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 37 through 39~~claim 37~~ wherein the anticancer agent is a taxane.

41. (Original) A method according to any to claim 40 wherein the taxane is paclitaxel, docetaxel (Taxotere®) or taxol®.

42. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 37 through 41~~claim 37~~, wherein microparticles with encapsulated paclitaxel are used for intravesical chemotherapy of bladder cancer.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for the localized treatment of a disease or disorder comprising the steps of: administering a pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claims 1 through 20~~claim 1 to the site of a disease or disorder, contacting the microparticles with the site, and releasing the encapsulated therapeutic agent in a controlled manner to treat the disease or disorder.

44. (New) A method according to claim 21 wherein the method comprises the addition step of:

(h) lyophylizing the microparticles.

45. (New) A method according to claim 23 wherein the method comprises the addition step of:

(h) lyophylizing the microparticles.

46. (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein the method comprises the addition steps:

e) isolating the pharmaceutical composition by centrifugation; and
f) washing the pharmaceutical composition with one or more wash cycles.

47. (New) A method according to claim 22 wherein the method comprises the addition step of:

(h) lyophylizing the microparticles.

48. (New) A method according to claim 47, wherein the method comprises the addition step of:

(h) lyophylizing the microparticles.

49. (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein the polymer support material is a poly(methylidene malonate 2.1.2).

50. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the microparticle has a mean particle size of at least 1.0 μm .

51. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the microparticle has a mean particle size of between about 1.0 μm and 100 μm .

52. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the microparticle has a mean particle size of between about 1.0 μm and 20 μm .